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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF
CRICKLADE & WOOTTON BASSETT

THE
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
and
Senior Sanitary Inspector
FOR THE YEAR 1952

To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District of:—

CRICKLADE AND WOOTTON BASSETT

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the year 1952, on the state of the public health of the District together with that of the Senior Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer. Details of Infectious Diseases notified are recorded in the body of the Report. A marked decline in the incidence of Measles and the rise in that of Scarlet Fever is noteworthy. Once again no case of Diphtheria was notified. Only one notification of Poliomyelitis was received and 9 cases of Food Poisoning were recorded.

As usual, the Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer is a valuable summary of a large volume of work performed unobtrusively and efficiently. As in 1951 good progress was made in connection with the Council's Housing Scheme.

In conclusion, I wish to record my appreciation and thanks for the wholehearted co-operation and assistance from the staff, and also from the other departments of your Council.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,


R. S. McELROY.

Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1953.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR, 1952.

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**CRICKLADE AND WOOTTON BASSETT
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
1952-3**

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL
HERBERT JOHN EVERLEIGH

VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL
ALFRED JOB WOOLFORD

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL
W. J. HOSIER

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
All Members of the Council.

CHAIRMAN
S. G. HUBAND

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING COMMITTEE
All the Members of the Council.

CHAIRMAN
HERBERT JOHN EVERLEIGH

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF AS AT

31st December, 1952

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

R. S. McELROY, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H., D.T.M.
also Medical Officer of Health Highworth Rural District Council,
Assistant County and School Medical Officer, Wiltshire County
Council

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

C. E. JAMES, C.S.I.B., Cert. Meat and Foods, M.S.I.A.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR

T. L. COX, C.S.I.B., Cert. Meat and Foods, M.S.I.A.

UNQUALIFIED ASSISTANT TO SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

S. MORELAND

RODENT OPERATOR

W. H. BUCKLAND

CLERICAL STAFF

MISS M. SIMPKINS

**Miss E. M. Pocock (Services shared with Highworth Rural District
Council and Wiltshire County Council).**

COUNCIL OFFICES

**Bath Road,
Swindon, Wilts.**

TELEPHONE NOS.—Swindon 2077, 3389 and 4760.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of the District	..	..	..	..	..	45,911 acres
Number of Parishes	..	..	..	..	..	14
Estimated Population (including service personnel)						15,460
Number of inhabited houses (permanent)	..	..				4,045
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	..	£73,158
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..			£295

Population: The estimated population of 15,460 shows an increase of 400 compared with 1951.

New houses erected in 1952: The figure of 41 shows a decrease of 22 over the previous year.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births:

Births				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	150	114	264
Illegitimate	..	..	..	8	5	13
Total number of live births				158	119	277

Birth Rate for the District	..	..	..	..	..	17.2
Comparative Figure for England and Wales				..	..	15.3
Comparability Factor for the District	..	..	..	..	..	1.17

Still Births:

Births				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	4	5	9
Illegitimate	..	..	..	—	—	—
Total number of still births				4	5	9

Total number of Deaths in the Area	..	..	..	..	..	137
Local Death Rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	..	..	8.2
Comparative Figure for England and Wales				..	..	11.3
Comparability factor for the District	..	..	..	..	..	1.06

Infant Mortality:

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :

Deaths	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	4	2	6
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total number of deaths	4	2	6

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age :

Deaths	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	4	2	6
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total number of deaths	4	2	6

Infant Mortality Rate, i.e.

Number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births	21.6
Comparative figure for England and Wales	27.6

Birth Rate:

The figure of 17.2 shows a decrease of 2.9 per 1,000 population compared with the 1951 figure. This still appears favourable with that of 15.3 for England and Wales for the year under review.

Death Rate:

The figure of 8.2 shows a decrease over the figure of 10.9 per 1,000 for 1951 and is still much lower than the comparative figure of 11.3 for England and Wales.

Infant Mortality Rate:

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births was 21.6 compared with 27.6 for England and Wales, showing a slight increase over the rate of 19.6 for the previous year.

Causes of Death

	Male	Female
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	3	—
Tuberculosis (other)	1	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	—
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	9
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	12	16
Coronary disease, angina	11	5
Other heart disease	6	9
Hypertension with heart disease	2	4
Other circulatory diseases	4	4
Pneumonia	1	2
Bronchitis	2	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	4
Motor Vehicle accidents	1	—
All other accidents	2	—
Total, all causes	68	57

Deaths from Cancer during 1952

Age	Site				
	Lungs	Stomach	Breast	Other	Total
40-50 years ..	—	1	—	2	3
51-60 years ..	—	1	—	1	2
61-70 years ..	—	—	—	1	1
71-80 years ..	1	3	—	1	5
81-90 years ..	—	1	—	5	6
Total	1	6	—	10	17

Causes of Death

CANCER : deaths declined from 25 to 22 but those from Cancer of the lung increased from 1 to 3 compared with 1951.

HEART DISEASE, ANGINA : deaths decreased from 27 to 16 with males still predominating.

INFLUENZA : no deaths were recorded.

PNEUMONIA : only 3 deaths were recorded compared with 12 in 1951.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the incidence of infectious disease during 1952 as compared with 1950 and 1951.

Disease	1950	1951	1952
Scarlet Fever	29	12	23
Whooping Cough	21	15	78
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Measles	12	126	12
Pneumonia	3	3	1
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—
Dysentery	2	4	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	1
Smallpox	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	1	1
Chickenpox	—	—	1
Malaria	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	1	1	1
Food Poisoning	3	94	9
Undulant Fever	—	—	1
Total	73	257	129

DISTRIBUTION IN PARISHES

	Ashton Keynes	Braydon	Broad Town	Clyffe Pyppard	Cricklade	Latton	Leigh	Lydiard Millicent	Lydiard Tregoze	Lynham	Marston Meysey	Purton	Tockenham	Wootton Bassett	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever	1	—	6	—	1	—	10	23
Whooping Cough	—	2	4	—	1	—	62	78
Diphtheria	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	12
Measles	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Meningococcal Infection	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Fuerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1
Chickenpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Poliomyelitis	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	9
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1
Undulant Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Total ..	12	—	—	—	8	6	1	1	3	11	—	2	—	85	129

ANALYSIS UNDER AGE GROUPS

DISEASE	Under 1 year	1-5 years	5-15 years	15-25 years	25-45 years	45-65 years	Over 65 years	Unknown age	Total
Scarlet Fever ..	—	4	18	1	—	—	—	—	23
Whooping Cough ..	5	38	34	—	1	—	—	1	78
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	1	5	5	—	—	—	—	1	12
Pneumonia ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Meningococcal Infection ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Chickenpox ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Malaria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Food Poisoning ..	—	—	1	3	—	4	—	1	1
Undulant Fever ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Total ..	6	47	58	7	3	5	—	3	129

Scarlet Fever

Compared with 1951 the incidence increased from 12 to 23 ; all cases were of a mild nature without complications.

Whooping Cough

The number of cases notified increased from 12 to 78 in keeping with the general rise throughout England and Wales.

Diphtheria

As in 1950-1 no cases were notified.

Measles

A marked decrease occurred with a decline of the 1951 epidemic.

Dysentery

Only 1 case was notified.

Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever

No cases recorded.

Poliomyelitis

Only 1 case was recorded (paralytic).

Food Poisoning

A decrease to 9 from 94 recorded for 1951 took place. 4 cases occurred in one family but no causative organism was isolated. In another case the consumption of a soft boiled duck egg arose suspicion but no pathogenic organisms were isolated from another egg of the same batch.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases

Year			No. of cases
1952	..	..	15
1951	..	..	15
1950	..	..	9
1949	..	..	12

Distribution of new cases and deaths according to age and sex is as follows :—

Age	New cases Male	Male Deaths	New cases Female	Female Deaths	Total	
					New cases	Deaths
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 years ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-15 years ..	3	—	1	—	4	—
15-25 years ..	2	—	6	—	8	—
25-35 years ..	—	—	1	—	1	—
35-45 years ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55 years ..	1	—	—	—	1	—
55-65 years ..	1	1	—	—	1	1
65 and over ..	—	1	—	—	—	1
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	7	2	8	—	15	2

HOUSING OF TUBERCULOSIS PATIENTS

During the year 2 cases were referred by the Chest Physician for consideration for re-housing. These cases are classified as follows :—

Certificate No. 1. Sputum positive cases where re-housing is considered urgent for the prevention of infection.

Certificate No. 2. Where better housing would be desirable in order to improve and maintain the patient's health.

Certificate No. 3. Where improved housing would be beneficial but is not an urgent matter.

The following is a summary of the cases dealt with during the year :

Type of case	No. cases referred	No. cases re-housed
Certificate No. 1 ..	—	—
Certificate No. 2 ..	2	—
Certificate No. 3 ..	—	—
Total	2	—

GENERAL PROVISION OF THE HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE DISTRICT

Laboratory Facilities

The Swindon Area Pathological Laboratory of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board caters for the needs of the District.

Hospital Facilities

These are the responsibility of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board.

The main general hospitals are situated at Stratton St. Margaret (in the Highworth Rural District) and Swindon, which also provide accommodation for Maternity cases in a separate institution.

Infectious diseases are admitted to the Area Isolation Hospital Swindon, while the nearest Smallpox Hospital is located at Reading. Cases under the National Assistance Act, 1948 are admitted to Elm Court, Stratton St. Margaret.

Other Facilities

Arrangements for the following health services operating in the District are made by the County Health Committee :—

Care of expectant and nursing mothers, and young children ;
Domiciliary Midwifery ;

Health Visiting ;

Home Nursing ;

Vaccination and immunisation ;

Ambulances and ambulance cars ;

Domestic helps ;

Services under Part III of the National Health Service Act, for the prevention of illness, care and after-care ; and health education.

Mental Health Service.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Immunisation is carried out by General Practitioners and County Council Medical Officers and the following table gives details for the year under review :—

Age Groups in years	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total under15
Primary imms. completed during 1952	112							204
Reinforcing inj. administered during 1952 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	152
Total immunised child population at 31st Dec., 1952	11	134	200	183	197	1075	878	2678

VACCINATION

Age Groups in years	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or or over
Vaccinations	48	4	4	2	3
Re-vaccinations	—	—	—	4	9

Once again it is disappointing to record the apathy of parents regarding the protection against smallpox by vaccination. The increased figure of 40% of corrected live births protected during 1951 fell to 17% for 1952.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 47, Removal to Suitable Premises
of Persons in need of Care and Attention.

During the year, no investigation or action was necessary.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR AND HOUSING OFFICER FOR THE YEAR, 1952.

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REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR AND HOUSING OFFICER FOR THE YEAR 1952

To : The Chairman and Members of the Cricklade and Wootton Bassett Rural District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1952—

HOUSING

Number of New Houses and Flats erected during the year

(a)	By Local Authority	23
(b)	Private Enterprise	18

Inspection of Dwellings during the year

(i)	Inspected for housing defects under P.H. Acts ..	21
(ii)	Inspected for housing defects under Housing Acts	4
(iii)	No. of inspections made under P.H. & Housing Acts	180
(iv)	Number of dwellings found so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	4
(v)	Number of dwellings found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	21

Remedy of defects by Informal Action

Number of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of Informal Action	15
--	----

Action under Statutory Powers (Public Health and Housing Acts)

(a)	Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of Housing Act, 1936	
(i)	Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	—
(ii)	Number of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By Owners	—
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	—

(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts	
(i)	Number of dwellings in respect of which formal notices were served	6
(ii)	Number of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By Owners	2
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(c)	Proceedings under Section 11 & 13 Housing Act, 1936	
(i)	Number of Demolition Orders made	4
(ii)	Number of Houses demolished as result of Demolition Orders	—
(iii)	Number of undertakings accepted	1
(iv)	Number of undertakings completed	—
(d)	Proceedings under Section 25 & 26 Housing Act 1936	
(i)	Number of houses under which Demolition Orders were made	—
(ii)	Number of houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	—
(e)	Proceedings under Section 12 Housing Act, 1936	
(i)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	—
(ii)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were cancelled, as result of premises having been made fit	—

Demolition Orders were made in respect of four houses which were unfit for human habitation and an Undertaking not to use a house for human habitation but to use it as a store was given by an owner. Two families were re-housed by the Council from the above houses.

Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding

Number of overcrowded cases discovered in 1952 ..	8
Number of cases of overcrowding brought forward from 1951	10
Number of overcrowded cases abated during the year ..	3
Number of overcrowding cases at the end of the year 1952	15

There were 5 more overcrowding cases at the end of the year than there were at the commencement. Seven cases of overcrowding were discovered when making inspections of council houses. All 7 families were in three-bedroomed houses, the overcrowding having been caused by the children reaching the age of 10 years and over and thus being reckoned as adults for the purposes of the overcrowding sections of the Housing Act, 1936.

There were 6 cases on December 31st 1952, where families did not have sufficient bedrooms to provide adequate sleeping arrangements, although there was not overcrowding as defined by the Act. I am pleased that the Housing Selection Committees take note of this "bedroom deficiency" when allocating council house tenancies.

Housing Act, 1949

No applications for Improvement Grants were made during the year.

Rural Housing Survey

The inspection, measurement and recording of houses under this survey has proceeded steadily throughout the year. The details entered on the survey sheets have proved to be of great value when information is needed of a particular house which has been included in the survey. At the end of the year inspections of 652 houses had still to be completed.

The following are the details of the survey :—

(a)	Number of houses to be surveyed	3255
(b)	Number of houses inspected, measured and recorded during the year	256
(c)	Total number of houses inspected, measured and recorded to December 31st, 1952	2603
(d)	Number of houses measured but not yet inspected (not included in (b) or (c) above)	24

Categorisation of houses inspected

CATEGORY

1—679 which is 26% of the number inspected.

2—568 " " 22% " " " "

3—900 " " 35% " " " "

4—209 " " 8% " " " "

5—247 " " 9% " " " "

The interpretations of the Categories are :—

1—Satisfactory in all respects.

2—Minor defects.

3—Requiring repair, structural alterations or improvement.

4—Appropriate for reconditioning under Housing Act, 1949

5—Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense.

Housing Applications

There were 39 less applicants for council houses on December 31st, 1952 than on December 31st, 1951. This was due chiefly to a revision of the list of applicants made in March, 1952.

The practice of visiting the houses or rooms occupied by applicants, for the purpose of checking the details given by them on their application forms is still carried out.

Letters from applicants are received or council house applicants call at the office almost daily in connection with tenancies of council houses.

Number of visits and enquiries re housing applications . . . 197

HOUSING APPLICATIONS AS ON DECEMBER 31st, 1952

PARISH	No. of Applicants		Total No. of Applicants	No. of Applicants who are over-crowded
	who are house holders	who are in rooms		
Ashton Keynes	17	8	25	5
Braydon ..	—	—	—	
Broad Town ..	3	4	7	
Cricklade ..	59	19	78	
Clyffe Pypard ..	5	5	10	
Latton	3	2	5	
Leigh	2	4	6	
Lydiard Millicent	16	11	27	
Lydiard Tregoze	3	—	3	
Lyneham ..	25	10	35	
Marston Meysey	2	4	6	2
Purton	49	38	87	
Tockenham ..	2	—	2	
Wootton Bassett	95	80	175	3
Any Parish ..	1	—	1	
	282	185	467	10
No. on Dec. 31st, 1951	295	211	506	10

SIZES OF FAMILIES OF APPLICANTS

Man, Wife and						
No Children	1 Child	2 Children	3 Children	4 Children	5 Children	Over 5 Children
142	176	78	42	16	4	9
Percentage of the Total						
30.4	37.7	16.7	9.0	3.4	0.9	1.9

APPLICATIONS FOR OLD PEOPLES' DWELLINGS AS ON DECEMBER 31st, 1952

	Number of Applicants		Total
	Married Couples	Widows and single persons	Total
Cricklade ..	1	1	2
Purton	1	1	2
Wootton Bassett	6	12	18
	8	14	22

Provision of New Houses

During the year 23 council houses were erected and 18 houses were privately built.

Those provided by the Local Authority were erected at :—

Ashton Keynes ..	4	
Lyneham	2	
Tockenham	4	
Wootton Bassett ..	9	
„ „	4 (Old People's Bungalows)	
	23	

All the houses had 3 bedrooms. Tho Old People's Bungalows were provided with 2 bedrooms.

The houses at Ashton Keynes and Lyneham were drained to the existing sewage installations on the existing sites. The Tockenham houses were drained to a small settling tank and filter.

The houses and bungalows at Wootton Bassett were connected to existing sewers.

The following are the details of housing set out in parish order. Included in the number of houses in the Lyneham parish are 192 houses erected by the Air Ministry for R.A.F. personnel.

PARISHES	Total No. of houses	No. of Council Houses including Old Person's Dwellings			% of houses owned by Local Authority
		Erected pre-war	Erected post-war	Total	
Ashton Keynes ..	268	18	18	36	13.4
Braydon ..	18	—	—	—	—
Broad Town ..	154	16	20	36	23.4
Clyffe Pypard ..	117	14	2	16	13.7
Cricklade ..	427	30	12	42	9.8
Latton	128	4	9	13	10.2
Leigh	89	10	14	24	27.0
Lydiard Millicent	249	30	6	36	14.5
Lydiard Tregoze	153	12	8	20	13.1
Lyneham ..	477	40	12	52	10.9
Marston Meysey	63	6	6	12	19.0
Purton	790	84	49	133	16.8
Tockenham ..	37	—	4	4	10.8
Wootton Bassett	1075	88	149	237	22.0
	4045	352	309	661	16.3

On December 31st, 1952, there was one council house to every 6 other houses (including Air Ministry houses) and to every 23 inhabitants. One post-war council house had been built for every 50 inhabitants (including R.A.F. personnel) of the district.

Inspection of Council Houses

During the year 375 council houses have been inspected. A record is kept of the visit, the inspection sheet showing the condition of each room, whether repairs are needed, whether animals are kept, the condition of the cesspool (if not on the sewer), whether vermin are present, whether the house is kept satisfactorily, whether lodgers are kept or furnished rooms let and the details of the inhabitants of the house. The majority of the houses are satisfactory. Where the houses are not kept as well as they should be, the tenants are told to cleanse the house, reports being made to the Council only where verbal instructions fail or when conditions are very bad. Three tenants were reported upon during 1952 and were given a time limit to cleanse their houses and distemper certain walls. The three tenants complied.

Temporary Dwellings

On December 31st, 1952, the number of temporary dwellings were :—

Ashton Keynes (Cove House Camp)	2
Cricklade (Paul's Croft)	2
Cricklade (Blakehill)	150
Lydiard Park	127
Wootton Bassett (Manor Flats) ..	6
	<hr/>
	287
	<hr/>

The Council have the right to select tenants for 50 huts at Blakehill and 25 at Lydiard Park. The remaining 100 at Blakehill have been allocated to various engineering firms for housing their employees, but at the end of the year approximately 25% of tenants selected by these firms had left their employ. All the huts at Lydiard Park were converted by Swindon Corporation who carry out repairs to all huts and select tenants for 102 huts.

I anticipate that the huts at Ashton Keynes and Paul's Croft Cricklade will be demolished in 1953 and that a number of huts will be demolished at Blakehill equal to the number of houses for which a special allocation has been made for re-housing Blakehill tenants. The Blakehill and Lydiard Park huts have living rooms, kitchenettes, small bathrooms and internal W.Cs., those at Blakehill having two bedrooms and the huts at Lydiard Park having one, two or three bedrooms. Both sites are drained to sewage works.

The six Wootton Bassett Manor House Flats are structurally sound, but the use of a common kitchen is not desirable although six gas cookers are provided.

Number of visits to temporary dwellings .. 13

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Nuisances

No. of nuisances discovered	32
No. of nuisances abated	32
No. of inspections made for the purpose ..	129

Verminous Premises

A heavy infestation of bugs occurred at a cottage. The house had been vacated and the trouble was found when another person took possession. Treatment made with D.D.T. sprays and smokes, and disinfestators was entirely successful. A repeat treatment was made after six weeks to make sure of killing any bugs which might have been hatched, but none were found.

A small number of houses situate near the Vastern refuse tip were treated with a "knockdown" D.D.T. spray and smokes owing to fly infestation.

One council house had a minor flea infestation and was treated successfully with D.D.T. smokes.

A workshop became infested with a small type of fly. Spraying with "knockdown" D.D.T. killed the flies and the residual D.D.T. was so effective thereafter that very few flies were subsequently seen.

No. of visits to verminous premises 29

Tents, Vans and Sheds

Eleven licences to station and use movable dwellings were issued. These movable dwellings were caravans of modern types. A piped water supply was available for the occupiers in every instance.

No. of visits to tents, vans and sheds 28

Smoke Abatement

Again this year complaints were received from the tenants of the surrounding houses about the emission of smoke and grit from the boiler stack at the United Dairies, Wootton Bassett. Any steps taken by the Company to eradicate or alleviate this trouble have definitely not been successful and great nuisance is caused at certain times of the year to the inhabitants of the houses situated near to the factory.

Drainage and Sewerage

Although the new council house sites situated in the under-mentioned parishes are sewered to small sewage works on the sites, these parishes are without a proper sewerage system :—

Ashton Keynes
Braydon
Broad Town
Clyffe Pypard
Latton
Leigh
Lydiard Millicent
Lydiard Tregoze
Lyneham
Marston Meysey
Tockenham

The council house sites served by small sewage installations are situate at Ashton Keynes, Broad Town, Leigh, Lydiard Millicent, Lydiard Tregoze, Lyneham, Marston Meysey and Tockenham.

The built up areas of the parishes of Cricklade, Purton and Wootton Bassett are served by sewers. At Cricklade the sewers discharge to sewage wells situated at Westmill Lane, Fair View and Hatchetts, and is then pumped to settling tanks sited near Hatchetts. The final treatment is on the broad irrigation system. At Purton and Wootton Bassett sewage works, sewage flows through detritus chambers, settling tanks, filter beds and humus tanks to small streams.

Number of houses served by W.Cs. and draining to cesspits	548
Number of houses served by pail closets and draining to cesspits	461
Total number of houses draining to cesspits	1009
Total number of houses draining to small sewage installations	80
Total number of houses connected to sewers	1687
Percentage of houses connected to sewers	43.78
Percentage of houses served by water closets and draining to cesspits	14.22
Percentage of houses draining to cesspits but having pail closets	11.97
Percentage of houses drained to cesspits	26.19
Percentage of houses drained to small sewage installations	2.08
Percentage of houses drained to sewers, small sewage installations and cesspits	72.05

(The above figures do not include Air Ministry houses and temporary dwellings).

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The collection of house refuse is made weekly in all parts of the district. Two "Dennis" 10 cub. yd. refuse vehicles are used for the purpose. Bins have to be placed by householders on the kerbside or roadside ready for collection.

Labour difficulties have again been experienced during the year, but the collections of refuse have always been carried out on the proper days. As it was impossible to get a man as a refuse loader, an old ex-employee was given the job sorting and baling waste paper. At the end of the year there was still one refuse loader short.

Refuse tips were in use at Cricklade (Broad Leaze Old Canal) at The Pry, Purton (old canal) and until July, at Vastern, Wootton Bassett. Although it was regularly treated with insecticides there was an abnormal infestation of flies at Vastern tip and I was instructed to discontinue tipping at this site. There was a small stream and a wood adjacent to the tip and in my opinion the flies were breeding in this wood. Tipping commenced in July at the extension of the old site at Wootton Bassett sewage works. Unless purchased, which is prohibitive, it is still well nigh impossible to obtain soil for covering purposes.

Excepting the case of Vastern tip, spraying with insecticides and the use of tip dressing keeps insects in check, and rats are kept to negligible numbers by regular baiting.

House refuse is collected weekly throughout the district.

No. of visits re public cleansing 162

Salvage

A collection of salvageable waste materials was made throughout the year. Waste paper is collected in trailers attached to the lorries when carrying out the refuse collection. The waste paper merchant ceased the purchase of waste paper from the Council in March and it was impossible to find another purchaser until August. The price offered was very low, but as stocks of baled paper filled the salvage shed and bales were also stacked in the open, we were left with no option than to accept any price so as to dispose of it. This is the second time that the Council have been left with stocks of waste paper on their hands with no outlet for disposal. Due chiefly to high prices obtained for waste paper during the first three months of the year, the receipts from the sale of salvageable waste materials were the highest since 1944.

The following are the details of the sales of salvageable waste material in 1952.

Waste Materials	Weight			Receipts		
	t.	c.	q.	£	s.	d.
Waste paper ..	63	10	0	428	18	0
Scrap iron ..	16	2	1	47	15	10
Non-ferrous metals		13	0	44	10	3
Textiles	2	14	3	34	11	9
	83	0	0	555	15	10

No. of visits re salvage 39

Refuse and Salvage—Collection and Disposal Costs (Financial Year ended 31st March, 1953)

Cost of refuse and salvage collections and disposal	£3388	9	10
Receipts—refuse and salvage	£466	4	5
Cost of refuse and salvage collection and disposal to General Rate Fund	£2922	5	5
Net cost of refuse and salvage collections and disposal per habitable house (including temporary and Air Ministry houses) ..		14/1	41
Net cost of refuse and salvage collection and disposal per head of population		3/9	36
Mileage of refuse vehicles :—			
No. 1 vehicle	8197		
No. 2 vehicle	7864		
Running costs of refuse vehicles per mile :—			
No. 1 vehicle	11.66d.		
No. 2 vehicle	1/2.30		
Miles per gallon :—			
No. 1 vehicle	7.76		
No. 2 vehicle	7.66		

There has been a considerable reduction in the cost of refuse collection and salvage due to the fact that last year the purchase price of the new refuse lorry and trailer and the balance of purchase price of the other lorry were charged off. Against this, the new lorry was run for the full twelve months against five months last year.

Infectious Diseases

Two scarlet fever and one poliomyelitis patients were removed to isolation hospital. All other patients were isolated at home.

In two instances inhabitants of the houses where there were infectious diseases were engaged in milk production. Approaches were made to their employers who gave the men temporary work which precluded them from handling milk or milk utensils.

Three excretal specimens were obtained from each member of a family where a case of dysentery occurred, and submitted for examination at the pathological laboratory, Gorse Hill, Swindon.

No. of visits re infectious diseases	35
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FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1938 AND 1944

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

Milk distributors, who are not producer-retailers, and their premises if situated within the district, remain the only concern of the Council under the Milk Regulations quoted above, apart from that part of the regulations dealing with the presence of disease amongst cattle or operatives on dairy farms. Set out hereunder will be found totals from the various registers, including the Special Designation Regulations of 1949.

No. of Milk Distributors on the Register	..	..	14
No. of Distributors Dairies on the Register	..	..	9
No. of inspections made under the Regulations	..	..	15

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

No. of Dealers licences issued authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested"	..	..	8
No. of supplementary licences issued authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested"	..	..	3

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Regulations 1949

No. of Dealers licences issued authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised"	..	..	2
No. of supplementary licences issued authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised"	..	..	2

Milk Sampling

During the year 54 samples of milk have been taken from distributors, producer retailers in the district and one producer retailer whose premises are outside the district. Of these samples 27 were submitted for biological examination, 46 for the Methylene Blue tests (keeping quality), 7 for the Phosphotase test (check on adequate pasteurisation) and one for a check for B. Abortus. It should be explained that a fair proportion of the samples were split at the laboratory for dual purpose testing, e.g. biological and Methylene Blue or Phosphotase and Methylene Blue.

Biological Tests

There was one positive result in the 27 samples submitted for biological examination. The milk involved came from a farm in the district supplying a distributor operating in the district. The Ministries of Agriculture and Food were notified forthwith and the M.O.H. directed the supply from the distributor and ordered the pasteurisation of the milk from this farm until the results of the biological samples taken by the Ministry Veterinary Officer were known.

A cow which had been purchased by the producer just previous to the taking of the particular sample had rapidly lost weight and had been killed in a knackers yard subsequent to the taking of the sample. This was the suspected animal and as the follow up samples proved negative, it appears that the tubercular milk was produced by this animal.

Methylene Blue Tests								
Satisfactory Not reduced after		Unsatisfactory						
		Decolourised at						
4½ hrs.	5½ hrs.	5 hrs.	4 hrs.	3½ hrs.	2½ hrs.	2 hrs.	1½ hrs.	1 hr.
17	19	1	1	2	1	2	2	1
Total No. of samples—46					Satisfactory		36	
					Unsatisfactory		10	
N.B. In winter Methylene Blue should not be reduced under 5½ hrs.								
In summer Methylene Blue should not be reduced under 4½ hrs.								

Ice Cream

There are 26 premises registered for the storage and sale of ice cream and 3 premises for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream. All with storage licences only sold the pre-packed article, supplied by manufacturers, with one exception, producing outside the district.

Of the three manufacturing premises, one was a factory producing large quantities of pre-packed ice cream while the other two were used to produce loose ice cream for sale at seasonable times from two shops and a mobile trailer. The large factory closed down in the last month of the year.

Regular visits were made to these manufactories during the year, and check samples were taken also of the pre-packed brands sold within the district but manufactured elsewhere.

Manufacturer	Provisional Grading			
	1	2	3	4
A	7	3	—	1
Percentage ..	64	27	—	9
B	2	1	1	—
Percentage ..	50	25	25	—
C	1	—	—	—
Percentage ..	100	—	—	—
D	1	—	1	—
Percentage ..	50	—	50	—
E	1	—	—	—
Percentage ..	100	—	—	—
F	1	—	—	—
Percentage ..	100	—	—	—
G	1	—	—	—
Percentage ..	100	—	—	—
H	2	3	—	—
Percentage ..	40	60	—	—
Totals ..	16	7	2	1
Percentages ..	61.5%	26.9%	7.7%	3.8%

In all 29 samples of ice cream were taken, 26 of which were subjected to the Methylene Blue test as set out above. 21 of these samples were checked by the laboratory for the presence of B.Coli and in 14 of these B.coli was present, the nonfaecal type in 12 and the faecal type in 2. Where samples were from batches in deep freeze in this district and found to be unsatisfactory, the whole batch was broken down and remade. In other cases sterilization was checked or the appropriate authority in whose area the ice cream was produced were notified.

Meat

A considerable number of animals, chiefly calves, are killed for human consumption in a slaughterhouse at Hook. Animals were received for slaughter from markets at Swindon, Frome, Devizes, Malmesbury, Warminster, Tetbury, Yate, Glastonbury, Gloucester, Cricklade, Lechlade, Trowbridge, Savernake and Chippenham. The slaughterhouse is termed an " export " slaughterhouse, which means that the carcasses are not distributed in the district but are despatched to areas of other local authorities.

Every carcase and its organs were examined and whenever sufficient means of identifying a calf condemned for congenital tuberculosis were available, notification was given to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Veterinary Surgeon. Out of 20 calves condemned for congenital tuberculosis, 7 dams were found to be tubercular, 3 could not be traced by the Veterinary Surgeon, 2 dams were not tubercular, market tickets were missing from the hides of 6 calves and therefore information could not be given to the Veterinary Surgeon and no information has been received in respect of the dams of 2 calves. There was considerable reduction in the number of tubercular calves found during the year. The incidence of tuberculosis in calves has shown a steady decrease since 1941.

The increase of 3464 animals slaughtered during the year was considerable, the percentage increase being 15.8.

No. of visits to and inspections made at the slaughterhouse	359
No. of visits to and inspections made at shops and other premises	5

Animals killed and Carcases examined

	Cattle	Calves	Pigs	Sheep	Total
No. of animals killed . .	3	24360	36	1062	25461
No. of carcases examined	3	24360	36	1062	25461

95.6 % of the animals were calves.

Condemned Meat

	Cattle	Calves	Pigs	Sheep	Total
Condemned for Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses	—	20	—	—	20
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	27	—	—	27
Total number of animals affected with Tuberculosis	—	47	—	—	47
Percentage of the number inspected which were affected with Tuberculosis	—	0.18	—	—	0.18
Condemned for diseases other than Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses	—	53	1	7	61
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	963	17	186	1166
Total number of animals affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis ..	—	1016	18	193	1227
Percentage of the number inspected which were affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis ..	—	3.99	0.07	0.76	4.82
Condemned for all Diseases					
Whole carcasses	—	73	1	7	81
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	990	17	186	1193
Total number of animals affected with disease ..	—	1063	18	193	1274
Percentage of the number inspected which were affected with disease ..	—	4.17	0.07	0.76	5.00

Weights of Condemned Meat

	Condemned in slaughterhouse				Condemned in shops			
	T.	c.	q.	lbs.	T.	c.	q.	lbs.
Beef	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	11
Veal	1	15	2	26	—	—	—	—
Pork and Bacon	—	3	—	24	—	—	—	—
Mutton and Lamb	—	3	1	12	—	—	—	—
Offal	1	—	—	16	—	—	—	—
	3	2	1	22	—	1	1	11

	Condemned for Tuberculosis				Condemned for diseases other than Tuberculosis			
	T.	c.	q.	lbs.	T.	c.	q.	lbs.
Beef	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	11
Veal	—	9	2	23	1	6	—	3
Pork and Bacon	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	24
Mutton and Lamb	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	12
Offal	—	2	—	15	—	18	—	1
	—	11	3	10	2	11	3	23
Percentage of the total of condemned meat	18.56				81.44			

Tuberculosis in Calves

The table gives details of the number of calves killed yearly since centralised slaughtering commenced and the incidence of tuberculosis in calves. In 1952 the percentage of tubercular calves was only approximately 25% of that in 1940.

Year	No. of calves killed	No. of tubercular calves	Percentage of calves affected with tuberculosis
1940	14095	102	0.72
1941	13588	116	0.85
1942	15190	104	0.68
1943	15293	90	0.59
1944	16702	82	0.49
1945	16985	101	0.60
1946	20231	95	0.47
1947	22002	86	0.39
1948	20184	91	0.45
1949	19313	68	0.35
1950	21397	71	0.33
1951	21929	64	0.29
1952	24360	47	0.19

Casualties

The number of animals killed during the year as "casualties" was nearly the same as last year, but the percentage, 0.79, was lower.

						Casualties killed
Cows	..	..	..	..	..	1
Calves	..	..	..	..	..	140
Pigs	..	..	..	..	..	36
Sheep	..	..	..	..	..	24
						<hr/> 201 <hr/>

Slaughter of Animals Act

There were 21 licensed slaughtermen in the district on December 31st, 1952.

Knackers Yard

Although the only knackers yard in the district has not operated for some years, the owner-occupier still applies for and is granted a licence for his premises.

Other Foods

During the year condemnations of the following quantities of unsound food were made and the food was surrendered voluntarily for destruction.

	Tins	lbs.
Tea		8
Sugar		33
Flour		108
Cheese		63
Tinned Ham	3	34
Bacon		17
Jellied Veal	1	6
Evaporated Milk	17	17
Tinned Pork Brawn	5	4
Stewed Steak	2	2
Tinned Meat Loaf	7	5
Tinned Apricots	1	2
Tinned Peas	5	5
Corned Beef	1	1
Prepared dough		336
Pork Brawn		2
		<hr/>
		643 lbs.
		<hr/>

Food Premises

Visits have been made to premises where food is prepared, handled or stored, as follows :—

No. of visits to ice cream premises ..	49
„ „ „ „ bakehouses	34
„ „ „ „ fishmongers	1
„ „ „ „ grocers and fruiterers	10
„ „ „ „ cafés and other food preparing premises	21
	<hr/>
Total visits to food premises ..	115
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The number of premises which are required to be registered under the Food and Drugs Act for the preparation and manufacture of food for sale was 38. All of these premises were satisfactory.

Two bakehouses were unsatisfactory as regards cleanliness, one of which has since been closed by the owner.

Food Poisoning

Enquiries were made into 5 cases of suspected food poisoning. In two instances all members of the families were affected but in each of the remaining cases only one individual was affected. It was impossible to obtain any samples of food consumed by the patient but three excretal specimens were submitted to the analyst from each member of the family.

No. of visits re food poisoning	17
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FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Types of Premises

Aircraft Maintenance shops	1
Bakehouses	12
Builders and Carpenters	..	..	..	10
Blacksmiths shops	..	..	..	2
Brickworks	..	..	..	1
Condensed milk manufactory	..	..	..	1
Dental manufactory	..	..	..	1
Dried milk manufactory	..	..	..	1
Egg grading depot	..	..	..	1
Engineering shops	..	..	..	5
Gas works	..	..	..	2
Glove works	..	..	..	1
Grass drying plants	..	..	..	1
Ice cream factory	..	..	..	1
Joinery works	..	..	..	1
Laundries	..	..	..	1
Local authority workshop	..	..	..	1
Motor and cycle repair shops	..	..	..	17
Printers	..	..	..	1
Potters and Weavers	..	..	..	1
Rope works	..	..	..	1
Saw mills	..	..	..	3
Sausage makers	..	..	..	1
Waterworks	..	..	..	2
				—
				69
				—

Inspections

- (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities :—

No. on register	..	..	..	15
No. of inspections	..	..	..	9
No. of written notices	..	..	..	—
No. of occupiers prosecuted	..	..	..	—

(ii)	Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority :—				
	No. on register	..	..	..	54
	No. of inspections	..	..	..	42
	No. of written notices	..	..	..	4
	No. of occupiers prosecuted	..	..	..	—

Defects

Cases in which defects were found :—

	Found Remedied	
Sanitary conveniences		
Want of cleanliness	.. .. 5	5
insufficient	.. .. 1	1
unsuitable or defective	.. .. 3	3
not separated for sexes —	—

Outworkers

Wearing apparel—making of :—

No. of outworkers in March list	..	24
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WATER SUPPLIES

The supply of water throughout the district in 1952 was satisfactory, no reports of shortage having been received.

All the samples taken from the Ashton Keynes supply proved to be of the highest purity.

The analyst reported a “suspicious” sample from Clyffe Pypard and also from Thornhill, but the water from all supplies is chlorinated.

There is no plumbo-solvent action in water from any of the sources.

In connection with the copper in solution found last year in water supplied from Broad Town to two farms through a new long length of copper pipe, two more samples were taken in 1952 and the analyst still reported unfavourably on the amount of copper in solution.

Sources

Water is obtained from four sources of supply. The greatest yield is obtained from a borehole situate at Ashton Keynes. This borehole is 300 feet deep and is adequately protected from contamination. A smaller supply is obtained from a heading driven into the chalk hill at Clyffe Pypard. A well situate at Broad Town yields a comparatively small quantity of water, but the least amount is obtained from a well at Thornhill.

A small number of houses and farms in Broad Town and Clyffe Pypard parishes are connected to a private water supply.

Storage

The following are the details of the storage capacity in the district :—

	Gallons
Reservoir at Hook	500,000
Reservoir at Cricklade	60,000
Underground tanks at Clyffe Pypard	35,000
Elevated tank at Ashton Keynes	20,000
Elevated tank at Wootton Bassett	50,000
Elevated tank at Purton (Pavenhill)	20,000
Underground tank at Purton (The Heading)	17,000
Elevated tank at Bradenstoke	12,000
Underground Tank at Broad Town	10,000
	<hr/>
	724,000
	<hr/>

Distribution

The greatest storage is provided by the reservoir situate on the highest ground at Hook, water being supplied thereto by a 10 inch main under pumping pressure from Ashton Keynes. The tanks at Ashton Keynes and Cricklade are also supplied from the borehole through 3 inch pumping mains. The Hook reservoir supplies water to the tanks at Purton and Wootton Bassett, and a large quantity also gravitates to the R.A.F. Station, Lyneham, the tank at Bradenstoke being supplied from this station. Ashton Keynes can be supplied from Hook reservoir by using the rising main as a supply main.

Every parish is supplied with water from one or more of the previously mentioned storage tanks and reservoirs.

Water Sampling

Water samples were regularly submitted for analysis from all public supplies. Some samples of private water supplies were also taken and details of the sampling are as follows :—

Number of water samples taken—Public supplies, 20
Private supplies, 13

	Bacteriological		Chemical	
	Fit for drinking purposes	Unfit for drinking purposes	Fit for drinking purposes	Unfit for drinking purposes
Taken from public supplies at				
Ashton Keynes	4	—	1	—
Broad Town ..	5	—	1	—
Thornhill ..	3	1 (suspicious)	—	—
Clyffe Pypard ..	3	1 (suspicious)	1	—
Taken from private supplies in the parish of				
Clyffe Pypard ..	2	3	—	—
Lydiard Tregoze	—	3	—	—
Purton ..	2	1	—	—
Wootton Bassett	1	1	—	—

Three samples taken from the Clyffe Pypard private supply were classed as “unfit.” The underground storage tank was cleaned out and a new cover fitted. Subsequent samples were passed as “fit for drinking purposes” by the analyst. The three samples taken at Lydiard Tregoze were all from the same well.

There are no water mains serving three of the premises where the well water was unfit.

Three houses were connected to water mains as the result of informal action.

Houses and Population supplied from Public Water Mains

PARISH	Water supplied direct to houses (not including temporary dwellings)		Water supplied by means of a standpipe (not including temporary dwellings)	
	No. of houses	Estimated population	No. of houses	Estimated population
Ashton Keynes..	228	851		
Braydon ..	16	60		
Broad Town ..	115	429		
Clyffe Pypard ..	66	246		
Cricklade ..	402	1501		
Latton	70	261		
Leigh	86	321		
Lydiard Millicent	235	878		
Lydiard Tregoze	103	385		
Lyneham ..	405	1512		
Marston Meysey	43	161		
Purton	726	2711		
Tockenham ..	41	153		
Wootton Bassett	1022	3816	11	41
	3558	13285	11	41

Houses and Population supplied from Private Water Mains

PARISH	Water supplied direct to houses (not including temporary dwellings)		Water supplied by means of a standpipe (not including temporary dwellings)	
	No. of houses	Estimated population	No. of houses	Estimated population
Broad Town ..	5	19		
Clyffe Pypard ..	29	108		
	34	127		

Temporary Dwellings and Population supplied from Public Water Mains

PARISH	Water supplied direct to temporary dwellings		Water supplied by means of standpipes on the sites	
	No. of temporary dwellings	Estimated population	No. of temporary dwellings	Estimated population
Ashton Keynes ..			2	7
Cricklade ..	152	568		
Lydiard Tregoze	127	474		
Wootton Bassett	6	22		
	285	1064	2	7

Totals, Percentages, etc. re Water Supplies to dwellings

TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSES SUPPLIED FROM PUBLIC WATER MAINS

(i) Into or on to premises	..	..	..	3,558
(ii) By means of a standpipe	..	..	..	11
				<hr/> 3,569 <hr/>

ESTIMATED POPULATION SUPPLIED FROM PUBLIC WATER MAINS (INCLUDING POPULATION OF TEMPORARY DWELLINGS)

(i) Into or on to premises	..	..	..	..	14,349
(ii) By means of standpipes	..	..	..	..	48
					<hr/> 14,397 <hr/>

Total number of **houses** supplied from water mains
(public and private) 3,603

Total estimated **population**, including population of
temporary dwellings, supplied from water mains
(public and private) 14,524

Percentage of **houses** supplied from **public** water
mains 92.63

Percentage of **houses** supplied from **private** water
mains 0.88

Percentage of **houses** supplied from **water mains** 93.51

TABULAR SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR, 1952

Water supply	39
Drainage	60
Fried fish shops	1
Tents, vans and sheds	28
Factories	17
Bakehouses	34
Refuse collection	67
Refuse disposal	114
Damage by Pests Act	2160
Schools	1
Salvage	54
Nuisances	129
Temporary Dwellings	13
Building licensing	6
Housing (Inspection and Repairs)	180
Overcrowding	3
Verminous premises	29
Rural Housing Survey	265
Miscellaneous Housing visits (enquiries etc., re housing applications)	197
Council house inspections	375
Infectious diseases	35
Meat inspection :—	
Slaughterhouses	359
Other premises	5
Grocers and Greengrocers	10
Dairies	15
Ice cream premises	49
Food preparing premises	21
Milk sampling	51
Food poisoning enquiries	17
Miscellaneous visits	38
Petroleum installations	107
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Printed by
Spinkes Printing Works Ltd.,
Chippenham, Wilts.
